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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

KNOLLENBERG TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREE FROM EIU

CHARLESTON – Robert G. Knollenberg, a resident of Boulder, Colo., for more than 30 years, will receive an honorary degree from Eastern Illinois University during its Fall 2000 commencement ceremony Saturday, Dec. 9.

Knollenberg will be awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service degree in recognition of his distinguished career as a scientist, educator, businessman and philanthropist. He also will deliver the charge to graduates during the 2 p.m. ceremony.

Born in rural Coles County, Ill., Knollenberg received his bachelor of science degree in chemistry from EIU in 1961. After earning graduate degrees in meteorology and cloud physics at the University of Wisconsin, he held a research scientist position at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in the late 60's and a faculty position at the University of Chicago until 1972.

He founded Particle Measuring Systems, Inc., in 1972 in Boulder where he pioneered development of a variety of particle-sizing techniques with applications to scientific disciplines

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Eastern Illinois University emphasizes distinguished teaching in the liberal arts, sciences and selected professions. A traditional, residential state university of recognized quality, Eastern enrolls more than 10,000 students in undergraduate and graduate programs. The university, located in Charleston, also serves the region through a variety of non-credit and off-site degree programs, as well as cultural and recreational opportunities. Eastern's pursuit of excellence attracts well-qualified students of an increasingly diverse population and a teaching faculty active in research and public service who utilize the latest technology.

ranging from space flight to environmental science. He currently serves as CEO and chairman of the board at Research Electro-Optics, Inc., a rapidly growing, Boulder-based company in optical telecommunications. He also co-founded Sensor Technology Development Fund, a Boulder venture capital firm investing in early phase, high technology start-ups.

In 1993, he was named an Entrepreneur of Distinction by the Boulder Development Commission.

Knollenberg's career is marked by dedication to the advancement of fundamental science and to its application in areas which bring broad benefits to humankind. His many awards include the 1977 Losey Atmospheric Sciences Award; the 1978 NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement as the principal investigator for the Cloud Particle Size Spectrometer for the Pioneer Multiprobe Mission to Venus; the 1986 and 1993 Maurice Simpson Technical Editors' Award for contributions to the Institute of Environmental Sciences; and the 1994 Technology Advancement Award from the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research.

He also has publications in more than 60 national and international journals, as well as numerous patents.

Successful as a scientist and as a businessman, Knollenberg has made generous contributions to organizations ranging from the Honduran Relief Agency (after Hurricane Mitch) to supporting prostate cancer research at Johns Hopkins University and at the University of Pittsburgh. He is an acknowledged supporter of EIU, where he has established the endowed Knollenberg Fund to support graduate students in chemistry. He was the recipient of EIU's 1997 Distinguished Alumnus Award and is a member of the EIU Foundation.